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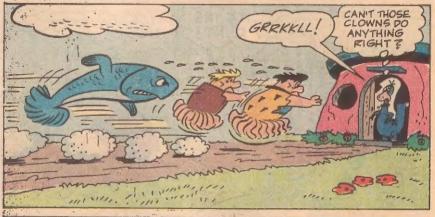




































DIDJA REALLY KNOCK OUT SLUGGO ) MECTUFFY, FRED ? GEE, HE'S THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP OF BEDROCK WHEN HE AIN'T IN JAIL!



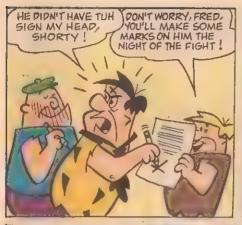


















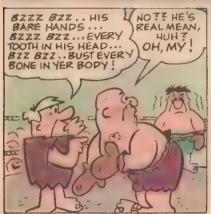






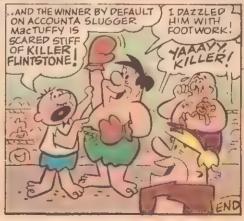














Lok and his niece and nephow, Illi and Kin, had just completed a pleasant visit with their relatives in the village of Bric and were on their way home to their ewn village of Brac. The only part of the journey which they dreeded was the crossing of Woodly Stream because the curionits were swift and the stream was filled with predatory animals. Bravely they entered their walnut shell boot and Lok dipped the paddle, made of a match stick and a bush leaf, into the clear, running water.

A giant dragenfly skimmed ever the water near them, and they held their breath. But the slender insect ignored their tiny craft and flew by them.

"Uncle Lok, look!" cried little Lili.

Lok turned and saw a large fish leap out of the water toward their walnut craft.

"Duck down," he shouted to the children and as the

fish came nearer Lex shoved the paddle into its epened laws.

The fish was both surprised and angry that it had missed its pray. Furiously, it threshed about in the stream trying to dislodge the paddle from its mouth; and the waves it made pushed Lek's boat onto the shore.

"We're sooking wet," said Kin. "Momma is gonna be mad."

"Wet, shmet, we were almost gobbled up by a fish," grumbled Lok. "I'm going to take you two heme, and then I'm going to see the Mayer. Semething has get to be done about that stream. It's dangerous!"

When lok went to see the Mayor, the Mayor agreed with him that a better way must be found to cross the stream; but he didn't know how, so he invited the Mayor of Bric to meet with him.

"How about a bridge?" suggested Lak.

"A wonderful idea," said the Mayor of Brac. "We'll even build the bridge, if Bric will pay for it."

"I agree that a bridge is the answer to the problem, but I insist that we build It," said the Mayor of Bric, "and Bras will pay for It."

The two mayors glared angelly at each other, it was obvious to look that neither of them was going to give in to the other.



"Why don't you both build the bridge and both pay for half of it," said was in compromise.

"Of course," said the two mayors, "that's the

"We'll both build the Bric Bridge," said the Mayer of Bric.

"You mean the Brac Bridge, my dear fellow," said the Mayor of Brac.

"The Bric-Brac Bridge," said Lok, and refuctantly the two mayors accepted the name.

"Now we must decide on the kind of bridge to build," said the Mayor of Bric "Hean toward a simple truss bridge or a draw bridge."

"No, not" said the other mayor. "A suspension bridge will be the only one that will work!".

"Obviously, we must compromise again. We at Era will build a truss bridge and you at Brac will build a suspension bridge. This way half of our bridge will be truss and half will be suspension and we will both be content. Do you agree?" asked the Mayor of Bric.

"I garee," said the other mayor.

Lok was silent. There was a limit to compromises and he knew that the two mayors should have made a decision. Either type of bridge would have worked out welf, but together the bridge would look ridiculous and perhaps not be as strong. At that point, Lok believed that the mayors were elected on their ability to be fools.

Two months later the bridge was completed and the two mayors called a haliday to celebrate the opening of the Bric-Brac Bridge. A red ribbon was stretched across the entrance on the Bric side of the bridge, and a blue ribbon was stretched across the entrance on the Brac side. Little Lili cut the blue ribbon, and the people started to walk over the new bridge. They taughed and sang to the happy tunes which the band played. It was like a big parade.

The Mayor, Lok, Lift and Kin waited for the people from Bric to come across but strangely enough no one came.

"Shouldn't we go see what's keeping them?" asked Kin.

"I think we had better," agreed lok.

The four of them walked over the bridge until they were half way across, and suddenly they became aware of what was wrong. The two halves of the bridge weren't connected! Bric's half of the Bric-Brac Bridge was higher and to the left of Brac's half. In the distance, Lok could see the people of Bric and Brac floundering in Woodly Stream.

"We'd better get some boats in the water and rescue them" said Lok.

"I guess ... uh, we should build another bridge," said the Mayor sheepishly.

"I guess we should elect another mayor," said Lok with a cynical sneer on his face.

A short time later, Bric and Brac had two new mayors and a new bridge.

END

















































